AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1-50.   (Canceled)

51.   (New) A method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:

providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition that specifies a place to which the parent preference element applies.

52.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

53.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements.

54.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

55.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

56.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

57.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

58.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein one of the child preference elements of the parent preference element includes a further preference condition.

59.   (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
updating the user description.

60.   (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
storing the user description.

61.   (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the user description includes a user identifier specifying a name for one or more users.

62.   (New) A method for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the method comprising:
receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition that specifies a place to which the parent preference element applies; and
using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

63.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

64.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein filtering multimedia content includes recommending multimedia content.

65.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

66.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies an actor or a director.

67.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein one of the child preference elements includes a further preference condition.

68.   (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising:
updating the user preference description.

69.   (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising:
storing the user preference description.

70.   (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the user preference description is associated with a user identifier that includes a name.

71.   (New) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:
a data storage device; and
data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:
providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of

the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

storing the user description in the data storage device.

72.   (New) The system of claim 71, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

73.   (New) The system of claim 71, wherein providing the user description includes receiving user input defining at least a portion of the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements.

74.   (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

75.   (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia genre.

76.   (New) The system of claim 71, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:

updating the user description.

77.   (New) A system for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the system comprising:

a data storage device to store a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the

parent preference element includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

    data processing apparatus configured to perform operations comprising:

        receiving the user preference description from the data storage device; and

        using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

78.   (New) The system of claim 77, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

79.   (New) The system of claim 77, wherein the multimedia preference description in one of the parent and child preference elements specifies a multimedia classification attribute.

80.   (New) The system of claim 77, wherein the data processing apparatus is further configured to perform operations comprising:

    updating the user preference description.

81.   (New) A computer program product for processing user preferences related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

    providing a user description including a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchical structure includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies.

82.   (New) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.

83.   (New) The computer program product of claim 81, wherein the user description includes a usage history describing events of consuming multimedia content.

84.   (New) A computer program product for processing user preference related to multimedia content consumption, the computer program comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

receiving a user preference description that has a hierarchical structure to describe preferences for filtering and searching, the hierarchical structure including a parent preference element and one or more child preference elements of the parent preference element, each of the parent and child preference elements including at least one multimedia preference description to identify preferred multimedia content, wherein the parent preference element in the hierarchy includes a preference condition specifying a place to which the parent preference element applies; and

using the parent preference element to search for or filter multimedia content only at the place specified by the preference condition.

85.   (New) The computer program product of claim 84, wherein each of the parent and child preference elements includes a respective preference value to characterize relative importance of the corresponding multimedia preference description.